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This seems to furnish insufficient data for the following statement. "When the time comes to retire from active business life, the Germans seem to have made most systematic provision for old age."

To compare the vigor of the school children of this district with that of normal children the following formula is introduced.

$$\text{Coefficient of Vigor} = \frac{\text{Weight}}{\text{Height}} \times \frac{\text{Strength}}{\text{Long Capacity}}$$

"The first half of the expression shows the relative mass and bottom of the organisms. It is thus a rough measure of nutrition and general stamina. The second half shows the energy and staying power available for work. It is thus a measure of force and vital action. The combination gives a rather adequate expression for physical capacity, based upon fairly simple measurements. The coefficient increases toward unity at about maturity." Judged by this standard of measurement, the condition of the children in this district is below normal.

This volume adds one more to the list of painstaking studies of small communities. To obtain such detailed information is beyond the power of the federal census and we must rely for a more intimate knowledge of our population upon personal research of this kind. In time we should possess a considerable fund of information upon the conditions of life among selected groups.

WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

Yale University.

La Depopulation des Campagnes. Ses Causes et ses Inconvénients. Les Remèdes. Par S. GUÉRAUD-DE LAHARPE. Mémoire couronné par la Société Française l'Emulation agricole. (Angoulême: L. Coquemard et Cie, 1908. Pp. 84.)

This monograph, although small in size, is one of the best studies which has appeared upon the world-wide tendency to desert the rural districts and rush to the cities. To those who are looking for suggestions to make life in the farming districts more profitable and attractive this book is recommended.

The first third of the book is devoted to an enumeration of the causes which have lead to the depopulation of the country with

the resultant increase of the city population, and the economic and social evils occasioned thereby.

The remainder of the book is given to the consideration of a number of propositions to overcome this rural exodus by transforming a struggling and dissatisfied farming class into a prosperous and contented peasantry. Part of this improvement must be accomplished by the state. The government must no longer, by tariff regulations, sacrifice agriculture to industry. The small farmer should be assured that he will not be dispossessed from his little holding. The land tax should be made less burdensome than at present, by increasing the personal property tax. The laws of succession should be so modified that upon the death of a farmer the land should not be divided equally between the children, making the holdings too small to support a family. The communal holdings should be kept inviolate in the future. In this way, the peasant, feeling that he has a share in the returns from this property, may be kept from leaving the commune. The government should undertake certain public works like the construction of irrigation canals, and forestry. Up to the present most of the public relief work has been confined to the cities. There are at present about 16,000 bureaux de bienfaisance in France. All of the urban communes are provided with them, and since there are about 36,000 communes in the whole country it is easy to see how slight is the provision for the rural communes. For those workmen who find they are no longer able to endure the strenuous life of the factories there should be rural colonies where they could be self-supporting. These would be halfway stations between industrial and agricultural life. The method of primary instruction in the rural districts should be decidedly changed. There should be a garden connected with every school, in which the pupils should receive practical instruction in agriculture, or the hours of the school-day should be reduced in order that practical field work at home might be combined with instruction in the schools. Part of the time of the soldiers should be devoted to scientific agriculture, that they might be the more willing to return to their homes in the country when their term of service expired. In connection with this it might be well to grant them leave of absence with free transportation during the harvest season, to preserve their interest in the home and occupation of their boyhood. If

there were traveling professors to instruct the young men in scientific agriculture, and the young women in domestic economy during the winter, it might serve to make both groups more contented with their lives in the country.

In addition to these governmental provisions much could be done by the farmers themselves. More general use of chemical fertilizers and modern farm machinery would spell larger profits. Coöperative societies have proved successful in certain sections of the country and should spread. They are peculiarly fitted to the production of butter and cheese. Coöperative purchasing of supplies has been accompanied by savings in price. Mutual insurance societies would reduce the individual risks incident to farming. The introduction of various industries to employ the labor of men and women during the slack season is recommended. More should be done for general hygiene, and the housing conditions of the farm laborers should be improved. Every village should have its social center, with library and place of general meeting. Here the people could gather for lectures and concerts, and it should be the veritable center of the communal life. The offices of the mutual insurance and coöperative societies might well be in this building. With such a social and intellectual center the problem of fostering a strong local attachment would be much simplified.

Many of these propositions are not original and some are not adapted to our form of government, but this little book has so much in a small space that an evening given to its reading would be time well spent.

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The Brazilian Year Book. Issued under the Patronage of the Brazilian Government. First Issue, 1908. Compiled and edited by J. P. WILEMAN. (Rio de Janeiro: The Offices of the Brazilian Year Book. 2 Guineas.)

Another year book upon an ambitious scale has just been added, comprising a volume of 780 pages. It contains official information upon a vast number of subjects, and should prove of great value to firms doing business in Brazil.